



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

September 2025

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Our Mission: Give Hope

“Mission of Hope is best known for its free lunchtime program, but that's just one part of the ministry. Our food pantry, clothing, and recovery services offer support and work together to meet people where they're at. We restore hope by loving people well, and by sharing the good news of the gospel. Our prayer

is that those who we serve will be transformed in a miraculous way by the Holy Spirit. We often see lives change as people encounter the love and grace of Jesus Christ.”

Holy Redeemer provides help to Mission of Hope in variety of ways: serving a monthly meal, food drives, clothing drives, Christmas families, volunteer hours, and monetary donations. While many thanks go to all who help with our assistance to Mission of Hope, a special thanks goes to Shari Singelstad for being a long-time coordinator of the meals and for checking in with the folks at the mission to see how else we might help.

School supplies: Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for the family of Mission of Hope. It's very much appreciated. -- Shari

August meal: We served 145 plates of goulash, green beans, and desserts at Mission of Hope on August 21. There were a lot of new people and a lot of families with children. We will serve walking tacos on September 18, so please watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you would like to help, just talk to Shari. “We also have a lot of fun and laughs in the kitchen while we are cooking.”

Extra surprise: While serving the meal, Shari said that a woman going through line stopped and asked how Shari was. Shari said, “Fine, how about you?” This lady was so excited to tell Shari she was getting a house to live in with another woman that day. She said she would be able to move out of a shelter house. Shari told her that was great news, congratulated her, and wished her the very best from our Holy Redeemer group. (These are the kind of heart-warming stories our volunteers get to hear from time-to-time at Mission of Hope.)

A couple of pictures of some of our folks serving the August meal:



Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met on Thursday, August 14. Here are a few highlights from their printed reports and meeting minutes:

Finances: For the month of July, we did not meet our monthly goal of \$16,017. Thanks to a generous donation we **exceeded our general fund goal by \$121**. However, we had a **building fund shortage of \$1,041** for a total shortage \$920. Total year-to-date general fund giving is now up 1% over 2024. Building fund offerings for the year remain up 39%. Total giving for 2025 is 7% higher than 2024. Expenses for June were kept in check, allowing \$4,282 to be moved back into the contingency fund, for a new balance of \$21,958 at the end of July. This is the first increase in the contingency fund in several months. Our end of July mortgage balance was \$237,109.

Old Business Topics: Old business discussions focused on Eagle Scout project – scheduled for August 30, a second meeting with Deacon Jodi Schuman (provisions of our constitution and part-time ministry guidelines), and call committee.

New Business Topics: A single new business item was to approve the Mission of Hope food drive for “God’s Work. Our Hands.”

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm.**

Synod News



Bishop Current on Sabbatical

Bishop Amy Current is on sabbatical through September 26. During this time, Pastor Dan Kuckuck serves as Acting

Bishop, and the work of the synod continues with the Office of the Bishop team.

St. Stephen's Shelves Food Pantry

A year ago, the Southeastern Iowa Synod awarded St. Stephen's in Cedar Rapids a \$1,500 grant to help launch a new neighborhood food pantry. After months of preparation, St. Stephen's Shelves opened its doors in June 2024—and has been going strong ever since.

Operating in partnership with HACAP (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program) and Feed Iowa First, the pantry serves as a vital resource for local families. The ministry is led hands-on by Will Negrón, Minister for Faith Life, with support from Barb Polglaze, who manages inventory, the Shelves Committee providing vision, and a dedicated team of volunteers.

In just six months, St. Stephen's Shelves has fed over 500 families—nearly 2,000 individuals—and the gratitude from those served is truly heartfelt. The original Synod grant played a crucial role in making this possible, helping cover essential expenses as the pantry grew.

Generous donations from the congregation, local businesses like Bruegger's Bagels, and the wider community, allow the pantry to offer a wide variety of food items. Behind the scenes, more than 150 volunteers have dedicated countless hours to making sure the pantry runs smoothly—from picking up food and stocking shelves to welcoming guests and managing inventory. Their hard work and commitment have made this ministry a true blessing for so many in the area.

St. Stephen's Shelves is a shining example of a community coming together to care for one another, and we celebrate the faithful work of everyone involved and the difference this ministry is making in the community.

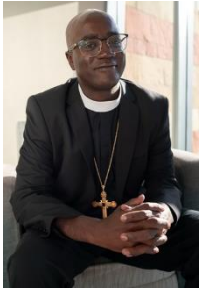


Additional Synod Information

For other information from our synod, visit <https://seiasynod.org/> to find weekly newsletters (<https://seiasynod.org/news>), messages from Bishop Current, and other information about our synod.

ELCA News

Installation of the Presiding Bishop



The installation of the new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, is open to the public, with no tickets required, on **Saturday, October 4**. Doors open at 1:00 PM and worship begins at 2:00 PM, followed by a public reception at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

For those unable to attend in person, the service will also be livestreamed.

To learn more about the installation and Presiding Bishop Curry, see the [ELCA website](http://www.elca.org).

Congregation News

Card Players



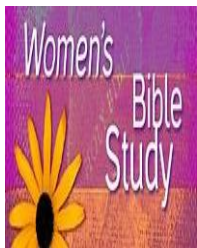
Card players will be in action the first and third Tuesdays – **September 2** and **September 16** – beginning at 12:30 pm here at the church. Come for cards, stay for the fellowship ... (and treats)! This is lively bunch that always has a good time.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga sessions will be held each Wednesday in September (unless you hear otherwise from Jeri or Shari). All sessions now begin at **11:30 am** in the narthex –chairs are moved around to provide plenty of space. All are welcome to give it a try. The cost for each session is \$10.00 – you may pay at the end of class. Talk to Jeri Hansen or Shari Singelstad for more information.



Women's Bible Study



Bible Study will meet at church on **Thursday, September 4** at 9:30 am. The study is *Money, Stewardship, and Generosity* by Rev. Christa von Zychlin. Session 1 is *Money – What do we treasure?*

From Genesis through Revelation, gold, silver, and jewels serve as icons of God's goodness. And yet, the love of money is a powerful source of argument, lies and literal enslavement. King Solomon, famously chose.... Copies of the study can be found in notebook under the Women's bulletin board. All are welcome – come when you can!

Book Discussion Group

Book Discussion Group will meet at church on **Thursday, September 11 at 9:30 am**. The book for August is *Earth's the Right Place for Love* by Elizabeth Berg. All are invited! If you haven't read the book, come and see if you'd like to read it.

Let's Do Lunch



Let's Do Lunch will be held at Lucky's on 16th (86 Sixteenth Avenue SW) on **Thursday, September 25** at 11:30 am. Please sign up on the board – it's not just a ladies lunch anymore – men are welcome too!

DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

DUO will meet at the church on **Tuesday, September 23** and again on **Tuesday, September 30** from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. Come help tie or pin quilts together. Bring your lunch!

DUO: Sewing and fellowship. Making quilts for outreach and to sell.



Women's Groups Note

The women's groups at Holy Redeemer are open to all women. You are welcome to attend; you don't have to wait for a special invitation. Just come and join any group that interests you. If you have questions, contact Laura Fowler or Jeri Hansen.

Adult Coloring

While Scooter's is undergoing a remodeling project, the adult coloring group will meet at the Ladd library. A room has been reserved for September. The group will decide whether to return to Scooter's after the remodeling is complete.

Love of Neighbor

God's Work. Our Hands.

Council has approved the collection of non-perishable food to take to Mission of Hope for "God's Work. Our Hands." on **Sunday, September 7**. Boxes will be put in the Faith Room (classroom nearest the back door) for the collection and the room will be marked and unlocked. Shari Singelstad will be putting a list of needed items on the bulletin board. This is the only event for "God's Work. Our Hands." this year. The food donation will be taken to Mission of Hope after September 7. If you have any questions, please contact Shari.

Linn Community Food Bank

We continue to thank you, as does Linn Community Food Bank, for your generous donations of food and cash. Second Sunday loose offerings, designated amounts, and our "quarter tube" all go to support the food bank. Our next designated Food Bank Sunday is **September 14**.

For more information about Linn Community Food Bank, refer to: <https://linncommunityfoodbank.org/>.

Fourth Sunday Offering

CROP Hunger Walk

The proceeds of our **September 28** fourth Sunday offering will go to the **CROP Hunger Walk**.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, impacting families in the United States and beyond. But it doesn't have to be that way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk

events held in cities and towns across the U.S., raising funds to support the global mission and transformative programs of Church World Service. Up to twenty-five percent of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

How to Give to Special Offerings

To donate to Linn Community Food Bank, Mission of Hope, the CROP Hunger Walk, or other community partners, simply indicate on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure it gets the proper designation and funds will be sent to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.

The Neighbors' Table

On Thursday, July 31, The Neighbors' Table served 102 community members and had one new community volunteer who has offered to return to help. On August 28, 82 were served – including some new families.

Our next scheduled meal is Thursday, September 25. New sign-up sheets and details will be posted as the date gets closer. Please talk to Tony Dehl if you are interested in helping.

LSI



Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song "If I Could Dream" by Elvis Presley. She wondered, "What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?"

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their

suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients' dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact philanthropy@LSIowa.org.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

In Our Family

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy birthday wishes to: Earl White, Ruth Tegatz, Courtney Hubbell, Rick Karns, Matt Hand, Marsha Torrey, Helen Andrews, Jim Veglahn, Bryan Kisling, Shelly Davidson, Elliott Giese, Judith Smith, Phil Hansen, Shari Singelstad, and Eleanor Thorpe!

Anniversary congratulations to: Marcia & Lane Prochnow, Brett Nitzschke & Barb Grant, Lee & Lanny Eggers, Marlyn & Bill Davidson, Kathy & David Logan, Carol & Randy Rentschler, and Donetta & Rob Heathman.

Weddings

Congratulations to: Rev (Haley) Hanson & Matt (Maddie) Kisling married on August 1 and Valarie Davidson & Ryan King married on August 23.

Moving

As of August 28, Jeri and Ron Hansen's new address is: 1818 Stoney Point RD SW, Apt 323, Cedar Rapids IA. 52404. If you are updating your contact information, you can also delete their landline number.

Also moving were Kelly & Terry Moritz – to Alamogordo, NM – and Adam Moritz – to Texas.

Cards for Sale

Did you know that greeting cards – made by Sara Merkey – are available for \$1.25? They are on the table with the worship volunteer signup sheet and there is a box for payments just behind the cards.

Ministry of the Month

Sept 7	Greeter	Dick Smith
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Linda Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Loretta Shannon
	Counters	Linda S/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Dianne Torrey
Sept 14	Greeter	Shari Singelstad
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Shari Singelstad
	Communion Asst	Shari Singelstad
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Laura Fowler
Sept 21	Greeter	Sarah Cones
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Tracy Kisling
	Communion Asst	Judith Smith
	Counters	Linda S/1 needed
	Communion Prep	Jeri Hansen
Sept 28	Greeter	Dick Smith
	Asst Minister	Loretta Shannon
	Reader	Jeri Hansen
	Communion Asst	Jeri Hansen
	Counters	2 needed
	Communion Prep	Smiths
Altar Care (September): Susan & Jeff Hand		

Bits & Pieces

Welcome September!

May this month bring you
satisfaction, peace and joy.
May all the desires of your
heart be granted.
May this be the beginning of
new things in your life.
Stay strong, be positive and
fulfill your dreams
Happy new month friends!

PT

“It was September, and there was a crackly feeling to the air.” — Carolyn Parkhurst

“When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn.” — V V Brown



“O sweet September, thy first breezes bring.
The dry leaf’s rustle and the squirrel’s laughter.”
— George Arnold

“I loved autumn, the season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it.”
— Lee Maynard

“All at once, summer collapsed into fall.”
— Oscar Wilde

“September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn.”

— Rowland E. Robinson



“There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green, and the days are still warm, but somehow you know that it is all about to end as if summer was holding its breath, and when it let it out again, it would be autumn.”

— Sharyn McCrumb



“There comes a day each September when you wake up and know the summer is over and fall has arrived.” — Ann Rinaldi

“September is the only month where you can experience all four seasons in one day.” – Unknown

Future Events

(All Events Tentative and Subject to Change)

September 2025

Sept 1 (Mo) **Labor Day** (offices closed)
Sept 2 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Sept 3 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Sept 4 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 6:30 pm – Committee Mtgs (TBD)
Sept 7 (Su) **“God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday**
9:00 am – Worship: 13 Pentecost
Sept 10 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
 5:00 pm – Neighbors Table fundraiser
 (Pizza Ranch – SW Cedar Rapids)
Sept 11 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Sept 14 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 14 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
Sept 16 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Sept 17 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring (**Ladd library**)
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Sept 18 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
Sept 21 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 15 Pentecost**
Newsletter Deadline
Sept 23 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Sept 24 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Sept 25 (Th) 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch

*Thursday, Sept 25
 Lucky’s on 16th
 86 16th Ave SW*

Sept 25 (Th) **4:30 pm –Neighbors Table**
Sept 28 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 16 Pentecost**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council

October 2025

Oct 1 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Oct 2 (Th) 9:30 am – Women’s Bible Study
 6:30 pm – Committee Mtgs (TBD)
Oct 5 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 17 Pentecost**
Oct 7 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Oct 8 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Oct 9 (Th) 9:30 am – Book Club
 7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Oct 12 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 18 Pentecost**
 Food Bank Sunday
Oct 15 (We) 9:00 am – Adult Coloring @ **TBD**
 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Oct 16 (Th) **Mission of Hope Meal**
Oct 17 (Fr) **8:00 am – 5:00 pm – Holiday Fair**
Oct 18 (Sa) **8:00 am – 1:00 pm – Holiday Fair**
Oct 19 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: 19 Pentecost**
Oct 20 (Mo) **Newsletter Deadline**
Oct 21 (Tu) 12:30 pm – Card Players
Oct 22 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Oct 23 (Th) 11:30 am – Let’s Do Lunch

Let’s Do Lunch

*Thursday, Oct 23
 Location: TBD*

Oct 26 (Su) **9:00 am – Worship: Reformation**
 4th Sunday Offering
 10:30 am – Coffee with Council
Oct 28 (Tu) 9:30 am – DUO Day
Oct 29 (We) 11:30 am – Chair Yoga
Oct 30 (Th) **4:30 pm –Neighbors Table**
Oct 31 (Fr) **Halloween / Reformation**

Nov 1 (Sa) **All Saints Day**
Nov 2 (Su) **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
9:00 am – Worship: All Saints Sunday

Wednesdays – Admin out of office
Friday mornings – Cleaner Image (Mike)



Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
 720 Edgewood Road NW
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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Church Staff

Open
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Jacqueline Murphy
Director of Music Ministries
 (319) 396-8547
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Cleaner Image
Custodian(s)

Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
(In Person and FB Live)



*If we live by the Spirit, let us also
 be guided by the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:25 (NRSV)



Holy Redeemer
 Lutheran Church

Join us as we grow to and for Christ!!!